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EMPEROR William's wounds have now entirely healed, and all Germany, except the socialists, is happy.

The chances of Hon. Seth Shepard are growing brighter day by day. If nominated he can beat Wash Jones.

Milam county instructs for Shepard for Congress. The delegates are supposed to be three-quarters for Hubbard.

There is now little doubt that the party who fired on the El Paso stage were white men, or Mexicans and not Indians at all.

The Mexia Ledger is exceedingly hard to please, it predicts dire calamities to the people should either Throckmorton, Hubbard or Lang be elected.

The Houston Age goes for John Hancock and the two Austin daily papers in a right lively manner. It has no faith in Hancock and in the newspapers referred to.

The condition of affairs in Idaho and Oregon is getting serious. In Idaho and bordering on the Oregon line there is from 1000 to 1500 hostile Indians which are virtually committed to war.

The San Antonio Express remarks that Gen. Grant seems to be a thorn in the side of many Democratic editors. It thinks if the Democrats can't beat Grant for the presidency in 1880, there is nobody they can beat.

In France the wages of farm hands average \$15 a month while the cost of living is \$12 or \$13 a month. Miners make \$1.05 to \$1.15 cents a day; those who work above ground make from 65 to 75 cents a day.

SENATOR Maxey and Congressman Giddings were tendered a banquet by the Galveston merchants. The affair came off at the Tremont Hotel, on Friday evening. Toasts and speeches were freely indulged in.

ELIZA PINKSTON, one of the historic characters in the Louisiana returning board business, now states that she was to have been paid \$500 for the part played by her, but only received \$50, the balance remaining in the hands of Brewster of returning board fame.

THERE was a reunion of the 12th and 19th regiments Texas cavalry held at Waxahachie on the 4th inst. About 200 members of the command were present and about 5000 people were on the grounds. Addresses were delivered, speeches made and a good time generally was had.

A SPECIAL to the Galveston News dated Concho July 4th says: It is reported at El Paso that one thousand Mexican are en route to the Texas state, having petitioned the Chihuahua government to allow them to cross over and rescue Apodaca who was implicated in the El Paso riots.

THE Houston Telegram thinks the building of the Santa Fe road to and through Brenham would in all probability be a disadvantage, resulting in the establishment of a rival town ten or fifteen miles from the junction. All of these chances we are willing to take if we can only get the Santa Fe.

The Galveston Citizen now uses the Congressional Record for wrappers.

PRIMARIES VS. CONVENTIONS.

The Democracy of Colorado county are called upon to hold primary elections on the 3d of August next, for the purpose of ascertaining the voice of the people as to the different candidates before them for office.

The Citizen says great complaint has been made of the convention system. The cry is "rings."

The great trouble is that those who are first to abuse conventions and cry rings, are those who never attend conventions; they seem satisfied to cry rings.

Conventions are usually held after due public notice has been given, and every man who has any interest in the management of public affairs should make it his business to attend the conventions or meetings, especially the primaries, and, by an expression of opinion, send men, as delegates to the county conventions, who will truly represent the sentiments of the people at large. That conventions can be, and have been manipulated, is true; conventions have their evils; the question is, what can be done to remedy this? The remedy is in the hands of the people themselves, and consists in their attending the primary meetings in such numbers as to obtain an expression of the will of the majority. It is now suggested in Colorado county to supersede the convention system, by holding primary elections at all the voting places in the county, where every man is expected to go and vote for his choice of the candidates for the various offices, precisely in the same way as at a regular election. The men receiving the largest number of votes, become the nominees of the party holding the primary elections; the defeated candidates are required to step down and out. The plan presents on its face every appearance of fairness, and is fair, if the people can only be induced to take sufficient interest in these elections to get at the actual choice of the people. Except in close political contests, there is always an apathy, many abstaining from voting, but afterwards abusing the men who are elected, and the party for electing them. The highest duty attaching to citizenship is that of voting, and a man who knowing and willfully neglects this very important duty, can hardly be classed as a good citizen. As between the convention and primary system, there is but little difference, although the primary seems to possess the advantage, provided the voters do their whole duty.

FROM the official proceedings of the Fayette county Democratic convention, it appears that Hon. Seth Shepard had a good many supporters. On the motion to instruct for congressman, the vote stood, Hancock 45; Shepard 20; W. M. Walton 3; whereupon it was declared that the convention instruct for Hancock. This was perfectly right, and we only give the figures to show that Shepard was not without friends in Fayette county. On the vote for governor, Hubbard received 67 votes against 6 scattering.

THE Alabama Republican State convention has just adjourned sine die at Montgomery. The day was spent in wrangling over contested seats. Resolutions endorsing Hayes were tabled. Resolutions to nominate a State ticket met a similar fate. They revenged themselves by adopting a platform violently denouncing the Democrats. Radicalism is irretrievably dead in Alabama, and this is probably the last State convention they will ever hold.

At a German picnic near Pittsburg, Pa., on the 4th inst., a storm came up blowing down a tree and killing ten persons and seriously injuring fifteen others.

Congressional Review.

A correspondent of the Galveston News writing from Flatonia gives a review of the congressional situation in this district. He says there is much dissatisfaction existing in the Democratic ranks, and an evident disposition to break from party lines and allegiance. He also says that from a careful view of the situation, appearances indicate that an effort will be made to bring out a Republican, possibly ex-governor Davis. He further says that it is plain that a great many Democrats and Conservatives would, if the Brenham convention does not suit them, be glad to defeat its nominee. It is said that should Davis run he will get the full strength of the Republican party. If this be so, Jones would have to depend entirely upon the Greenback element, and the sore-headed Democrats. Taking this view of the situation the election of the Democratic nominee would be a certainty if Davis makes the race. A great effort is being made by the Austin papers, and the correspondents of the News to manufacture public opinion in favor of Hancock. This may perhaps win, but we think Shepard has a firm hold on the hearts of the people; and, in all the pronounced Democratic counties in the northern part of the district the county conventions have instructed for him.

THE Arkansas State convention favors making United States treasury notes a full legal tender; the substitution of greenbacks for national bank notes; the repeal of the resumption act; approves the re-monetization of silver, and favors the taxation of United States bonds the same as other property. These resolutions are similar to those passed by the Ohio convention and would seem to meet the views of all moderate advocates of greenbacks. The disciples of Brick Pomeroy want an irredeemable paper currency that they are pleased to call absolute money, without even so much as a promise to pay. It is by no means likely that the property owners of the country will ever endorse the utopian ideas advanced by Pomeroy and his followers.

THE Houston papers contain the particulars of the drowning of Mr. Thomas W. Marshall, a Texas veteran. Mr. Marshall had participated in the 4th of July excursion to the San Jacinto battle ground on the steamer Diana. On the return trip and while the steamer was landing at Houston, he by some means fell overboard and was drowned. He was a native of Nova Scotia, and was 71 years of age. He was a pilot on the steamboat Laura, and on the day of the battle of San Jacinto the Laura was aground on Redfish bar. He was buried from his residence in Houston on Friday. The Telegram says, "Thomas Marshall was a good man and an exemplary citizen."

THE gubernatorial contest is involved in darkness, if not mystery. The two-thirds rule will, in all probability, prevail. If it is well adhered to by the partisans of three prominent aspirants, Hubbard, Throckmorton and Lang, it will result in the defeat of all of them and the selection of the "dark horse." This mysterious equine is variously named—Devine, Mills, White or Reagan.

THE Huntsville Item says that in slavery days the cotton worm was unknown. It was then the habit of planters to burn the cotton stalks. A writer in the Galveston News suggests the burning of the old stalks as a remedy, he having discovered that the egg or larva that produces the cotton worm, is laid in the cotton stalks and on no other plant.

COLORED BARBECUE.

The Owls "Thar."

On Friday there was a barbecue given by the colored people at Cole's creek, near Hidalgo, in the Washington beat. There were three or four hundred people present. The Brenham owls were out in full force. Among the audience, there was forty or fifty of the leading citizens and Democrats of the neighborhood. The chief business was speaking; speeches were made by the following named owls: Tom Lockett, E. Kamier, Jonny O'Riordan, Ed. Lockett, Huse McAdoo, Steve Hackworth and Constable Blount, of Washington. Mr. Huse McAdoo devoted his entire attention to the demolition of what he terms the "court-house ring." The venerable Stephen A. Hackworth tore his hair and made a regular "Hail Columbia" talk on the old stand-bys of the Republican party, of which he was one who had been thoroughly tried and branded "I. C." (Confederate cavaliers) will understand the meaning of the letters. Our reporter, who was "thar," says that there is some little dissension in the ranks; a few of the old "stand-bys" want everything their own way, showing a disposition to "buck" and do some responsible pitching. Hub Hutchinson and Lyd. Smith were both "thar," and announced themselves as candidates for Sheriff. Excepting the "little differences" in the views of the orators, everything passed off pleasantly. There was plenty to eat and no scarcity of "wet groceries."

Commissioner's Court.

Special term July 8. The following orders were made.

John A. Traylor appointed constable Precinct No. 2, vice R. S. Cook.

Tom Day, colored, allowed \$70 for waiting on District Court, 1st week July term.

Richard Mackey, allowed \$250 for moving weeds in court house yard.

Richard Mackey, allowed \$70 for waiting on District Court, 1st week July term.

W. H. Williams, allowed \$10 for waiting on District Court and \$13.75 for summoning witnesses in inquest cases of Wm. Law, Amos Richmond, Robert Whitfield and Walter.

Harry Hancock, allowed \$20 for summoning witnesses in inquest of K. Krug, D. Krug, M. Krug, C. Krug and M. Wickham.

C. Zacher, allowed \$25 for holding inquests in above cases.

H. Hancock, allowed \$12 for waiting on County Criminal Court 6 days, July term.

J. H. Hutchinson, allowed \$250 for boarding prisoners in county jail, from June 8, to July 8, 1878; \$18 for commitments and releases, and \$75 for boarding lunatics in county jail from June 8, to July 8, 1878.

SENATORIAL—The BANNER has interviewed several citizens from different portions of Austin county during the past week, and they all think that the Hon. A. Chesley is justly entitled to the nomination for State Senator; and that Austin county will come to the convention solid for Chesley; they think also that Washington county should give him a hearty support. In Burleson county he already has an assurance of considerable strength, and his friends there are sanguine of his success. The BANNER would be proud to see Mr. Chesley get the nomination, as we believe he is the only man in the field who can consolidate the vote of the district.

HON. MATT GAINES, colored, ex-Senator from this district and now a resident of Lee county, made a two hour's harangue at the courthouse on Saturday afternoon to an audience of 200 persons, among them one or two "owls" and several white Democrats. He told the colored people they ought to put none but their own race in office, and is said to have given the white Republicans "Hail Columbia." His description of how the white Republicans would take a colored man off to a bar-room and treat him when no one was in sight, is said to have been absolutely correct. Hon. Matt is highly colored, being about the complexion of the "ten of spades."

THE FOURTH AT ROUNDTOP.

A Gay and Happy Day. About Sixteen Hundred People Present.

The Assemblage Addressed by the Hon. Seth Shepard and Geo. Weichman.

The Tournament and Turverina Exercises and Ball.

The senior had the pleasure of attending the grand celebration of the glorious Fourth at Round Top on Thursday. Arriving upon the grounds at an early hour we had the pleasure of witnessing the assemblage of the crowd. At nine o'clock people were seen pouring into town, eagerly intent upon a day's enjoyment and pleasure. At ten o'clock the town was literally crowded with expectant and anticipating humanity, when the procession was formed in the following order and marched to the grounds, some half a mile distant:

1. Fox' Brass Band.

2. Knights of the Tournament.

3. Members of the Round Top Turners.

4. West Mill Creek Turners.

5. A decorated wagon containing the members of the young Ladies' Singing Society.

6. Citizens on horseback and in vehicles.

Upon arriving at the grounds the exercises of the tournament were begun, and hotly contested. The distance ran was about one hundred yards, and there were four rings to catch; the time to be made was eight seconds; with three tilts to each knight. The following is the result, as furnished us by Mr. Ligon, one of the judges:

1. J. T. Rankin, Knight of Seven Stars, 7 rings.

2. Alex Rosenberg, Knight of Nassau, 7 rings.

3. J. Robinson, Knight of Warrenton, 7 rings.

4. L. Zapp, Knight of Lone Star, 7 rings.

5. H. Becker, Knight of Long Point, 8 rings.

6. A. Becker, Knight of Live Oak, 8 rings.

7. H. G. Gregg, Knight of Burton, 7 rings.

8. E. Adams, Knight of Labadie Prairie, 4 rings.

9. K. Neese, Knight of Neesville, 4 rings.

10. H. Amberg, Knight of Rutersville, 4 rings.

11. Sam. Ligon, Knight of No Hope, 3 rings.

12. Doc. Ligon, Knight of Clear Creek, 5 rings.

13. D. McClatchey, Knight of the Wounded Heart, (twice ruled out), 2 rings.

14. W. A. Rankin, Knight of Ledbetter, 2 rings.

The knights of Lone Star, Long Point and Live Oak Grove, having tied, ran over with the following result:

Lone Star, first prize.

Long Point, second prize.

Live Oak Grove, third prize.

At 11 o'clock the Hon. Seth Shepard was introduced to the audience by the Hon. Joel Robinson, of Warrenton. His speech in the outset was a historical Fourth of July oration, winding up with a thorough discussion of the National Finances. His speech was a masterpiece of effort and was well received by his hearers; many of whom stated that it was the finest speech they ever heard from the lips of a man of his years. Notwithstanding he consumed one hour and three quarters of time, the people never grew tired, but listened to his argument with intense interest.

Dinner was then announced and we had the good fortune to fall into the hands of our friend and former schoolmate, Mr. T. A. Ledbetter, and enjoyed a sumptuous dinner with him, as did all the Brenham delegation.

At 2 o'clock the audience was favored with an able address in the German language by Mr. Geo. Weichman. His remarks were appropriate to the occasion, and contained nothing of a political nature.

At the conclusion of his remarks the "Young Ladies Singing Society" favored the audience with one of their sweetest and most popular airs, which was highly appreciated and lustily cheered.

Next in order was the Turners exercises on the horizontal bar, being a contest between the Round Top Turnverein, of Fayette county, and the West Mill Creek Turnverein, of Washington county, resulting as follows: Fritz Beberstein and Herman Beberstein, of the West Mill Creek Turners, captured the first and fourth prizes.

O. Hellmuck and Willie Stuckert, the second and third prizes.

There were two fine bands of music upon the grounds, which discoursed sweet music, at intervals, during the day.

THE BALL.

At sunset the music repaired to Rosenberg's Hall and the platform erected on the square, where dancing was begun, which was kept up with spirit and animation until daylight Friday morning.

The whole affair was a brilliant success; and, we may here remark that it is seldom the case that one sees such order preserved in an assemblage of sixteen or eighteen hundred people. Although there was an abundance of beer on the grounds, no disturbance whatever was created.

Non-Voters.

In all sections of the country, and in all elections, many men stay away from the polls. The recent election in California calls forth the following remarks from the *Alta Californian*; they are as appropriate to one section of the country as another:

"What shall be said of those citizens who spent the day in selfish rest, who ran away to the country, went fishing, to the Cliff house, and anywhere, everywhere, rather than do their duty? Such men are not fit to be citizens. This growing habit of what is called the best element in society, to neglect the ballot-box, deserves the severest reprehension. It is a crime against free institutions; and if, as we are almost led to believe, this utter personal selfishness, laziness and indifference to public duty has grown to be a deep-rooted malady in these men, there ought to be some remedy found for it and administered. It is this element that is responsible for frauds in elections; that has debased the ballot and sent unworthy men into high official station. A non-voting respectable citizen is a greater nuisance and curse to society and the peace of the community where he lives, than the worst whooping hoodlum, who sleeps by day and goes out at night on his mission of larceny, garroting and universal villainy."

THE Huntsville Item referring to the Mexia Ledger's editorial on the custom of county officials sending out of the State for printing has this to say:

An examination will show the disease is not confined to Washington county, but with a few noble and patriotic exceptions, prevades the whole State. The remedy is in the hands of the people; let them refuse to support men who patronize St. Louis for work they can have done at home. Let the officials look to St. Louis for their votes when the day of election comes on. There are legions of men quite as capable as the incumbents to fill the offices, and who would be only too glad of a chance to serve the people and encourage the home industries too, instead of building up non-constituents with ready cash. There are not many papers in the State that have not complained of this importing system, and it is likely the balance will make themselves heard, whenever the evil prevails. "Let judgement and execution issue," in all cases where convictions are obtained. That's music."

MR. Lang made a spread eagle speech on the 4th inst. at Fort Worth. He told the people all about how badly they have been and are now being treated. He avowed sentiments of the most advanced greenback order. He favors the issue of an absolute paper money to be receivable for all dues, public and private, and the payment of the national bonded debt in this money and the stopping further payment of interest due. The speech was well received.

THE Berlin Congress has agreed, in principle, to three points, namely: The Dardanelles to be closed to ships of war; to cede Batoum to Russia and make it a free port. There remains the question of dismantling the fortifications. A happy termination of the congress is expected next Thursday.

STATE NEWS.

—Trinity county instructs for Hubbard and Sayers.

THE Fort Worth Standard announces that it is "prepared" to do job work.

—A great many barns for the storage of grain have been built in San Saba county.

—Great preparations are being made at Corsicana for the reunion on the 10th inst.

—Many loads of buffalo hides have passed through San Saba during the last week.

—Throckmorton made a speech at San Marcos fairly taking the people by storm.

—Col. Ed. Waller, of Waller county, who has been sick two weeks, is reported to be dying.

—Hempstead has a colored brass band. They promise to do their practicing out of town.

—Jim Jones a negro convicted of murder will be hanged at LaGrange on Saturday the 6th, inst.

—The body of a drowned negro man was found in the Colorado river near the old Alvey farm.

—Hon. Norton Moses announces as a candidate for the Legislature in the 74th Representative district.

—At Corsicana the only observance of the "Fourth" was the display of a national flag at a beer house.

—Navarro county is out of debt and has a surplus of cash in the treasury. They now talk of building a new court-house.

—The ladies of Corsicana will give the Hood's and Granbury's brigades one of the most elegant receptions they have ever had.

—U. L. Collins, of excursion fame tells the Houston *Post* that he was swindled by M. K. and T. and the Mississippi railroads.

—The Colorado complains of excessive and thinks it may cause the ton to produce too much timber and not quite enough bulls.

—A negro with his abdomen literally cut open was brought to Houston in a skiff from down the bayou. Another negro did the carving and made his escape.

—A highly respectable and respected young man named McCool, blew his brains out with a pistol on a rancho in Wilcox county. He was tired of life.

—Gold has been discovered in Columbus. Dr. Tarvin in having his well cleaned out discovered minute particles of gold in the dirt brought from the bottom.

—Mrs. Simpson, of Columbus, in cutting open a cabbage discovered a centipede three inches in length. The Simpson family do not care about cabbage now.

—The Fort Worth Standard says the wet weather will reduce the average yield of wheat in Tarrant county to twelve bushels and in some localities to ten bushels.

—Waco has had another fire. The store of H. I. Bernstein & Co. was burned on the night of the 4th inst. Waco also had a convention that sends a solid delegation for Lang.

—Col. Will Lambert has been appointed a committee of one to proceed to Austin to procure board and lodging for the Harris county delegation to the State convention.

—John Speer, for the murder of Parson Pledger, has been, by the District court at Waco, sentenced to be hanged, on Wednesday, August 28th. Executive clemency alone can save him.

—A negro, whose wool is of the color of driven snow, and who claims to be an even hundred years of age, was arrested at Fort Worth for carrying a pistol. He was on the war path.

—E. C. Harrell has been elected mayor of the city of Giddings. He publishes a card stating that he will endeavor to discharge the multifarious duties of his high office to the best of his ability.

—During the past three weeks about one hundred and twenty-five thousand head of Nueces and adjoining counties to the vicinity of San Antonio, where the grazing is much better.

—Three road agents robbed the mail stage near Peg Leg crossing, on the San Saba, between Mason and Menardville. The registered letters were stolen. Another stage was robbed at the same place about the same time.

A Fort Worth saloon keeper attacked a blind fiddler with a pair of brass knuckles and beat him most outrageously.

—A fight occurred in Ellis county between a sheriff's posse and three horse thieves. Frank Werner, the boss thief, and one other was killed; the third one escaped.

—A Fayette county man having an abiding faith that providence does everything for the best, will not allow his tenants to poison cotton worms. He says if the Lord sends caterpillars it is because he knows it is for the best and it would be wrong to kill them.

—The Brazos Pilot gives an extended account of a negro political meeting at Bryan. It says Jim Russell a negro drayman announced that he was a candidate for "representative" to the Legislature, and discussed at great length and with much "superiority of locuquy" his claims for the position.

—About 5000 people assembled at Flatonia to celebrate the 4th of July. There was an unlimited supply of barbecued meats and edibles. Gov. Hubbard spoke two hours. Col. Wash Jones spoke at "great length" and Judge Ireland also made a short address, speaking first and occupying but a few minutes.

—A dastardly murder was committed at Paige station on the morning of the 4th inst. About 9 o'clock as M. Howard, station agent was on his way to the depot, he was met by about twenty-five men who killed him; he was shot in 27 places. He was the brother of Sam. Howard, who is now in the Bastrop jail charged with assassinating and killing Alex Farmer.

—San Saba News: Statement of wheat grown on Jackson county farm, Richland

measured 5 3/4 bushels at 60 cents per bushel, or 337 1/2 cents for the acre. It weighed 72 pounds per bushel measure. This is very heavy wheat; it is considered good wheat that weighs 62 or 63 pounds to the bushel.

THE Austin mathematician of the Galveston News, in his special of the 6th inst., gives the following solution of the gubernatorial problem:

Instructed for Hubbard, 304; for Throckmorton, 300. Uninstructed: Hubbard, 353; Throckmorton, 89. Instructed for Lang, 77; uninstructed, 74. Total for Hubbard, 657; for Throckmorton, 489; for Lang, 451. Aggregate vote, 1307. This is taken from official calculations. The other side divide the uninstructed vote to bring down essentially different results.

A NUMBER of county conventions were held on Saturday last. The following is a summary of the reports in the Galveston News:

Lamar county endorses the two-thirds rule. Lang is first, and Hubbard second choice for governor.

Gregg county instructs for Hubbard. The national bank system was condemned; also the smoke-house tax.

Comal county instructs for Throckmorton and Sayers; and Schleicher for congress.

Jack county instructs for Throckmorton.

Uvalde county instructs for Hubbard and Schleicher.

Anderson county does not instruct, but a majority of the delegates are said to favor Hubbard.

Palo Pinto county instructs for Hubbard.

THE Washington Star, of the 2d inst., says the government has under serious consideration and discussion the subject of Mexican and Indian depredations on the Rio Grand. The last grand raid, made a few weeks ago, seems to have awakened the cabinet. Immediately upon the receipt of Gen. Ord's official report of this raid, it was decided, at a cabinet meeting, to adopt a more vigorous policy on the border. Gen. Ord was sent for and gave his views on the subject. Final action has not been determined upon, but it is confidently stated that the government will use its power to put a stop to depredations of this character, which have been of frequent occurrence during the past thirteen years. This news will be acceptable in Western Texas.